In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by double bracketing. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Please amend claims 6 and 16.

Please cancel claims 69 and 70.

1. (Previously presented) A method for characterizing an apparently healthy individual's risk profile of developing future diabetes or one or more diabetic complications, comprising:

obtaining a level of C-reactive protein in a blood sample from the individual, and if said level of C-reactive protein is about 0.30 mg/dl or higher in the blood sample from the individual, then characterizing said individual as having an increased risk of developing future diabetes or one or more diabetic complications, wherein the diabetic complications are diabetic ketoacidosis, hyperosmolar coma, retinopathy, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic neuropathy, or diabetic foot ulcers.

2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the level of C-reactive protein is about [[0.60 mg/dL]] 0.60 mg/dl or higher in the blood sample from the individual.

7-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A method for characterizing an individual's risk profile of developing future diabetes or one or more diabetic complications, comprising:

obtaining a level of C-reactive protein in a blood sample from the individual, wherein a level of C-reactive protein about 0.30 mg/dl or higher in the blood sample from the individual establishes a first risk value,

obtaining a level of a glycosylated hemoglobin in a blood sample from the individual, comparing the level of the glycosylated hemoglobin to a second predetermined value specific for the diagnosis of diabetes or one or more diabetic complications to establish a second risk value, and

characterizing the individual's risk profile of developing diabetes or one or more diabetic complications based upon the combination of the first risk value and the second risk value, wherein the combination of the first risk value and second risk value establishes a third risk value different from said first and second risk values.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the level of C-reactive protein is about [[0.60 mg/dL]] 0.60 mg/dl or higher in the blood sample of the individual.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A method for evaluating the likelihood that an individual will benefit from treatment with an agent for reducing the risk of diabetes or one or more diabetic complications, wherein the agent is insulin, a hypoglycemic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, a lipid lowering agent, a calcium channel blocker, a beta-adrenergic receptor blocker, a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, or an angiotensin system inhibitor, comprising:

obtaining a level of C-reactive protein in a blood sample from the individual, and

if said level of C-reactive protein is about 0.30 mg/dl or higher in the blood sample from the individual, then characterizing said individual as likely to benefit from treatment with

said agents, wherein the diabetic complications are diabetic ketoacidosis, hyperosmolar coma, retinopathy, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic neuropathy, or diabetic foot ulcers.

22-51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a hypoglycemic agent.

53-54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the level of C-reactive protein is about 0.60 mg/dL or higher in the blood sample from the individual.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is insulin.

58-61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an anti-inflammatory agent.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a lipid lowering agent.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a calcium channel blocker.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a beta-adrenergic receptor blocker.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an angiotensin system inhibitor.

68. (Previously presented) A method for evaluating the likelihood that an individual will benefit from treatment with an agent for reducing the risk of one or more diabetic complications, wherein the agent is insulin or a hypoglycemic agent, comprising:

obtaining a level of C-reactive protein in a blood sample from the individual, and

if said level of C-reactive protein is about 0.30 mg/dl or higher in the blood sample from the individual, then characterizing said individual as likely to benefit from treatment with said agent.

69-70. (Canceled)

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the diabetes or one or more diabetic complications is diabetes.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the diabetes or one or more diabetic complications is one or more diabetic complications.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the diabetes or one or more diabetic complications is diabetes.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the diabetes or one or more diabetic complications is one or more diabetic complications.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an agent for reducing the risk of diabetes.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent is an agent for reducing the risk of one or more diabetic complications.